

Amendment to the Claims

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A plasma processing method comprising:

supplying electric power to a high frequency electrode;

making another electrode have a ground potential while supplying gas to a plasma source for processing an object to be processed at a pressure in a range of 10000 Pa to approximately three atmospheres;

processing a part of the object to be processed with a plasma, while supplying electric power to the high frequency electrode, wherein an area defined by an entire surface of the high frequency or the grounded electrode, which is arranged in a position opposite to the plasma source via the object to be processed, is smaller than an area defined by the perimeter of a surface of the plasma source superposed on the object to be processed, and the longest linear dimension of the a
length in any direction of the area of the entire surface of the high frequency or grounded electrode, which is arranged in the position opposite to the plasma source via the object to be processed, is smaller shorter than the longest linear dimension within a length in any direction of the area defined by the perimeter of the surface of the plasma source that is superposed on the object to be processed such that the area of the high frequency or grounded electrode that opposes the plasma source is smaller than the area defined by the perimeter of the surface of the plasma source that is superposed on the object,

wherein the high frequency or grounded electrode, which is arranged in the position opposite to the plasma source via the object to be processed, includes a plurality of electrodes which are movable relative to the object to be processed; and

moving the high frequency or grounded electrode, which is arranged in the position opposite to the plasma source via the object to be processed, toward or away from the object and controlling the electric potential of less than all of the plurality of electrodes to generate plasma on the object in a desired configuration.

14. (Previously Presented) The plasma processing method as claimed in claim 13, , wherein each of the plurality of electrodes are independently controlled to permit less than all of the plurality of electrodes to be moved toward the object.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The plasma processing method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the object to be processed is processed with a plasma into the desired configuration by selectively bringing arbitrary ones of the plurality of electrodes within a range of 0.05 mm to 0.5 mm from the object to be processed.

17. (Previously Presented) The plasma processing method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the object to be processed has a substrate or a thin film of a volume resistivity of not smaller than 10^{-6} (Ω -cm).

18. (Currently Amended) The plasma processing method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the object to be processed has a substrate or a thin film of a volume resistivity of not smaller than ~~10^{-8}~~ 10^8 (Ω -cm).

19. (Previously Presented) The plasma processing method as claimed in claim 13, wherein positions of the plasma source and the high frequency electrode are displaced relative to the object to be processed.

20. (Previously Presented) The plasma processing method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the gas includes at least any one of inert gases of He, Ar, Ne, and Xe.

21. (Previously Presented) The plasma processing method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the gas includes a gas selected from the group consisting of C_xF_y (x and y are natural numbers), SF_6 , NF_3 , O_2 , Cl_2 , and a halogen containing gas.

22. (Previously Presented) A plasma processing method comprising:

providing an object to be processed between a plasma source and a second electrode, wherein the plasma source includes a first electrode and the second electrode is potentially controlled in a position opposite to the plasma source, wherein the second electrode includes a plurality of electrodes which are movable relative to the object to be processed; and

supplying a high-frequency electric power to the first electrode while supplying gas from a gas supply unit to the object to be processed at a pressure in a range of 10000 Pa to approximately three atmospheres to generate plasma on a part of the object to be processed,

wherein the longest dimension of the area defined by the surface of the potentially controlled second electrode that is superposed on the object to be processed is smaller than the shortest dimension of an area defined by the perimeter of the opposing side of the object, and

the plasma is generated in a desired configuration by controlling the electric potential of less than all of the plurality of electrodes.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The plasma processing method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the electric potential of each of the plurality of electrodes can be independently and selectively controlled, and the object to be processed is processed by potentially controlling selected ones of the plurality of electrodes.

25. (Previously Presented) The plasma processing method as claimed in claim 22, wherein each of the plurality of electrodes are independently and selectively controlled, and the object to be processed is processed by selectively bringing arbitrary ones of the potentially controlled electrodes within a range of 0.05 mm to 0.5 mm from the object to be processed.

26. (Previously Presented) The plasma processing method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the object to be processed has a substrate or a thin film of a volume resistivity of not smaller than 10^{-6} ($\Omega\text{-cm}$).

27. (Currently Amended) The plasma processing method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the object to be processed has a substrate or a thin film of a volume resistivity of not smaller than 10^{-8} ($\Omega\text{-cm}$) 10^8 ($\Omega\text{-cm}$).

28. (Previously Presented) The plasma processing method as claimed in claim 22, wherein positions of the plasma source and the potentially controlled second electrode can be displaced relative to the object to be processed.

29. (Previously Presented) The plasma processing method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the gas includes at least any one of inert gases of He, Ar, Ne, and Xe.

30. (Previously Presented) The plasma processing method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the gas includes a gas selected from the group consisting of C_xF_y (x and y are natural numbers), SF_6 , NF_3 , O_2 , Cl_2 , or a halogen containing gas.